

Heroin seizures climbed in 2017

Confiscations of drug in Arizona continued upward climb; marijuana captures plunged to an 8-year low

Jason Pohl
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

The amount of heroin seized in Arizona last year continued a steady upward climb while marijuana confiscated by the Drug Enforcement Administration plummeted to its lowest level in at least

eight years, the latest sign of new supply chains and evolving enforcement priorities in the world of federal drug interdiction. Federal agents seized more than 1,100 kilograms of heroin last year in Arizona — nearly a tenfold increase since 2010. By way of comparison, DEA agents seized 247,628 kilograms of marijuana

in fiscal 2017, down steadily each year from more than 670,000 kilograms in 2010, according to figures maintained by the National Seizure System within the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center. Agents also seized 78 kilograms of fentanyl in 2017 and more than 121,000 blue fentanyl pills, an even more "alarming" trend the DEA says it is prioritizing in 2018. The year-over-year dip in Arizona DEA marijuana seizures corresponds with a wave of states legalizing recre-

ational marijuana — about half as much marijuana was seized at the U.S. border in 2016 compared with 2012. But it stands at odds with Attorney General Jeff Sessions' purported crack-down on pot in the U.S. Sessions has said "Good people don't smoke marijuana," and in January sowed new unpredictability into the legal marijuana industry by rescinding policies not to interfere with state pot laws.

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'HORRIFIC'



Students released from a lockdown console one another following a shooting on Wednesday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCALL/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

Former student opens fire at Florida high school, killing at least 17

A former student opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle at a Florida high school Wednesday, killing at least 17 and sending hundreds of students fleeing into the streets in the nation's deadliest school shooting since a gunman attacked an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut. The shooter, who was equipped with a gas mask and smoke grenades, set off a fire alarm to draw students out of classrooms shortly before the day ended at one of the state's largest schools, offi-



Students flee Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Wednesday.

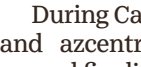
More online: Go to azcentral.com to see more images from the scene.

cials said. Authorities offered no details on the 19-year-old suspect or any possible motive, except to say that he had been kicked out of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, which has about 3,000 students. Students who knew the shooter, identified as Nikolas Cruz, described a volatile teenager whose strange behavior had caused others to end friendships with him. "It is a horrific situation," said Robert Runcie, superintendent of the district. "It is a horrible day for us." 8A, 1B

Republic editor to lead USA TODAY

Russ Wiles
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Nicole Carroll, a senior newsroom executive at The Arizona Republic for more than a decade, has been named editor in chief of USA TODAY, the nation's largest-circulation newspaper and one of the largest news sources in the country. Carroll's tenure at The Republic has been marked by both aggressive support for fundamental journalism and transformative efforts to reach new audiences online, in video and on social media. In 2017, she was recognized as the nation's top editor by the National Press Foundation. This week, she will accept that award, the Ben Bradlee "editor of the year" award, named in honor of the Washington Post editor who led the newsroom in the Watergate era. During Carroll's tenure, The Republic and azcentral.com have twice been named finalists for the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. Last year, her staff and the USA TODAY Network drew national attention for "The Wall," a project that examined the unintended consequences of President Donald Trump's proposed border wall. "Nicole has proven to be a dynamic community leader, committed champion of the First Amendment and a tireless advocate for her readers," said Maribel Perez Wadsworth, president of the network and associate publisher of USA TODAY, which includes an edition published as a portion of the daily Republic. "She has led award-winning, groundbreaking work that pushed the boundaries of digital storytelling and, importantly, delivered impact and changed lives."



Nicole Carroll

For Carroll, that impact has played out both in the coverage of her community and in her defense of journalists' First Amendment rights in Phoenix. She said enterprise and investigative reporting will be her focus in her new role at USA TODAY. "The purpose of the press has never

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Ward campaign posts 'fake news' piece

Dan Nowicki
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kelli Ward, a Republican U.S. Senate candidate, last year republished an "editorial" praising her from a "fake news" website. Politico highlighted the Ward campaign's posting of an "editorial" from a website called the "Arizona Monitor,"

which Politico described in a Wednesday report as "not a real news site" and "an anonymous, pro-Ward blog." Zachery Henry, Ward's campaign press secretary, did not immediately respond to The Arizona Republic's request for comment. However, Henry told Politico that there was no connection between the "Arizona Monitor" and the Ward campaign and denied there is anything un-

ethical about amplifying the opinion piece's message through official campaign channels. As of Wednesday morning, a Twitter account associated with the "Arizona Monitor" appeared to have been deleted. The website itself also was gone. However, the Ward campaign website's Oct. 28 posting of the "Arizona

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WINTER OLYMPICS SPORTS, 6-7C



The setting sun spotlights an athlete Wednesday at the Alpensia Ski Jumping Centre of the Pyeongchang Winter Games. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

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